

RESPONSE

In the Claims

1. Please cancel claim 68 without prejudice.
2. Claims 4-9, 11, 13-16, 18-26, 28-32, 34-38, 40-48, 55, 58-67, 69, and 70 are pending in the Application.
3. Applicant expresses his appreciation for the allowance of claims 18-26, 28, 43, 47, and 48.
4. Applicant also expresses his appreciation for the opportunity to meet personally with the Examiner on April 25, 2006.
5. Independent claims 30, 34, and 55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coffee. These claims were discussed during the April 25, 2006 personal interview and among the claim amendments discussed were those indicated herein. Entry by the Examiner is respectfully requested. As discussed, the material in question “is configured and arranged to rapidly and completely” or “deliquesce” to enable the active ingredient to become quickly available and to avoid the respiratory and gastrointestinal systems. In addition, the active ingredient enters the bloodstream via the blood-rich epithelium of the mouth or via the tissues of the eye. Claims 30, 34, and 55 have been so amended and entry by the Examiner is respectfully requested. Support for the stated amendments can be found in the Specification at 3:3, 4:25, 1:27-28, and 4:18-19. Coffee teaches first the formation of a mat or web on a surface. The mat or web so formed is designed to deposit onto the surface. In fact, Coffee teaches building up a number of layers to form, for example, a bandage. Coffee teaches the use of materials that are bioresorbable or biodegradable. Both terms are time-delayed actions such as breaking down over time or decaying. Nothing in Coffee teaches or suggests a, for example, deliquescent tablet. Additionally, nothing in Coffee suggests a method of forming individual tablets by “separating the fiber mat or web during formation”. Claim 55 has been amended to

describe the tablet formation and shaped regions and entry by the Examiner is respectfully requested. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 30, 34, and 55 as submitted herein, and their dependent claims 31, 32, 4-9, 11, 13-16, 29, and 58-60, respectively, distinguish patentably over Coffee.

6. Claims 58 and 59, which depend from claim 55, have been amended to comport with the amendment to claim 55, and entry by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

7. Claim 67 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coffee. This claim, too, was discussed during the April 25, 2006 personal interview and among the claim amendments discussed were those indicated herein. As discussed, the support surface is charged with sufficient definition to form a defined, for example tablet-shaped region. Claim 67 has been so amended and entry by the Examiner is respectfully requested. Additionally, claim 67 has been amended to include the active ingredient limitation of claim 68. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 67 as submitted herein, and its dependent claims 69 and 70, distinguish patentably over Coffee.

Closure

1. The undersigned Attorney for Applicant has made a good faith effort to meet the concerns expressed by the Examiner(s) in the Office Action and in the interview. If the Examiner still has some issues with the Application, and has any suggestions as to how to address them, the Examiner is invited to call the Attorney for Applicant at the phone number below, so that those issues may be resolved.

2. Previously, fees were paid for a total of 58 claims and five independent claims. As submitted herewith, a total of 52 claims and five independent claims are remaining with the Application. Accordingly, Applicant believes no additional claims-related fees are due. Please charge any additional fees, or credit any overpayments in connection with this Response to Applicant's undersigned counsel's Deposit Account 02-1266. A duplicate copy of this authorization is also enclosed.

3. Applicant submits that this Application is now in condition for further favorable consideration, culminating in allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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